

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1903.

TO OUR READERS.

Owing to a great demand for advertising space coming in at such a late hour, it was impossible to issue a two-page supplement. Some changes have been necessary in the make-up in this week's issue of the CITIZEN. Local matter will be found on every page of this issue.

An Important Meeting.

The Citizens' Committee of Fifteen appointed to consider the matter of a water supply has called a public meeting on Thursday evening, October 29th, in Central Hall and at which the report of the committee will be submitted to the public.

It is important that every tax-paying property owner should attend this meeting, as it is well known there is a question at issue between the citizen members of the Committee of Fifteen and the members of that committee who are also members of the Town Council. The difference of opinion relates to the proposed purchase of the Orange Water Company's plant in this town. The members of the Town Council have declared that a price of \$150,000 is the lowest figure obtainable from the Orange Water Company for the sale of the plant and the Council has by resolution called a special election submitting purchase at that figure to a vote of the people.

The citizen members of the committee declare that the Orange Water Company's plant is not worth \$150,000 and they are opposed to its purchase at that price, and condemn the action of the council in calling an election to vote on the purchasing of the plant at that figure. Both sides to this issue will be heard Thursday night and the people will pass judgment upon it.

Grave questions pertaining to the future status of this municipality are involved in the issue to be fought out at the meeting called for Thursday night, and every citizen who is at all interested in municipal affairs should be present and give his expression of opinion either by voice or vote. Both sides of the water question have been made public and in addition to what has been published, further oral statements will no doubt be made pro and con and there will be no excuse for lack of an intelligent understanding of the question on which the people will be called on to vote. The report of the sub-committee of the Committee of Fifteen is published in full in this issue of the CITIZEN and should be carefully read by every taxpayer.

A Good Lesson.

N. H. Dodd, the carriage builder, had a group of seven stone-throwing boys arrested Thursday for throwing stones at his shop building and breaking windows. Mr. Dodd placed his damages at twenty dollars, and each boy was fined \$3.85 by Recorder Post. The stone-throwing nuisance is carried on to an outrageous extent in this town and more arrests ought to be made and fines imposed.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

Mr. Howard Miller, Leslie Long, Wm. Hochstetler and Wm. Baxter will represent the local Y. M. C. A. at the State Convention which is being held in the Newark Young Men's Christian Association this week. Instead of holding a meeting this evening in Watsessing Mr. Ira Smith of East Orange will meet the members of the association and attend the convention in a body, leaving on the Lackawanna at 7:01. This will be a splendid opportunity to visit one of the largest Y. M. C. A. buildings in America.

An Old Fashioned Sociable and Reception under the auspices of the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor of the First Baptist Church, was held in the church parlors on Thursday evening. The nature of the evening was the number of old style dressed young ladies and gentlemen. The programme was carried out in a quiet way. Refreshments were served.

Prospective Wedding.

Cards are out for the marriage of Frederick Ernest Mohrmann, High School Class '06, to Miss Clara Mary Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Taylor of No. 3 Franklin street, this town. The wedding will take place Monday evening the 30th, at the home of the bride's parents and the Rev. E. A. White, of Church Episcopal church will officiate.

The Jarvis Memorial Library.

Now that the initial year of the library is completed, it may not be amiss to publish for the information of those who are interested a few facts concerning the institution, its year's work and present condition. The Library Committee, appointed by G. Lee Stout, President of the Board of Trustees, consists of Dr. H. E. Richards, Chairman; James Y. Jarvis, Wm. P. Sutphen, Secretary, and John Newton, Treasurer. In all its work this committee has been ably assisted by the librarians; monthly reports have been made to the trustees, and the first annual report has just been submitted by the committee. From this report such facts as may be of interest to the general public are herewith presented.

GROWTH OF THE BOOK-SHELVES.

The library opened for business September 30, 1902, with a stock of 5,327 books; 710 volumes have been added by purchase and 801 by gift, so that at the close of the year, October 1, 1903, the shelves contain 6,838 volumes, covering every field of literature usually represented in a library of this size. A list of the new books is published each month in the CITIZEN, and to reprint the lists here would occupy too much space; a few of the most important additions to the reference department are, however, worthy of special mention; they are:

Library of the World's Best Literature, edited by O. D. Warner, 31 volumes.

Library of Literary Criticism, edited by C. W. Moulton, 8 volumes.

Dictionary of the Bible, edited by James Hastings, 4 volumes.

Cyclopedia of horticulture, edited by L. H. Bailey, 4 volumes.

History of the Christian Church, by Philip Schaff, 8 volumes.

New International Encyclopedia, 17 volumes.

National Dictionary of American Biography, 11 volumes.

People's Natural History, 5 volumes.

Harper's Encyclopedia of U. S. History, 10 volumes.

The most important donation to the library came from a New York gentleman (may his tribe increase), in the shape of a check for \$1,000, to be used for the purchase of books at the committee's discretion. With this money there have been bought a number of valuable reference books, and complete sets, handsomely bound in half morocco, of Review of Reviews, 26 volumes; Cosmopolitan, 33 volumes; Fortnightly Review, 73 volumes; Nation, 75 volumes; Nineteenth Century, 53 volumes; Forum, 33 volumes; Atlantic Monthly, 90 volumes; Popular Science Monthly, 61 volumes; Outlook, 17 volumes; Bookman, 15 volumes; Scribner's Magazine, 23 volumes. As the library already owned complete sets of Little's Living Age, Harper's Magazine, North American Review, Critic, and Scribner's Magazine, together with Poole's and the Cumulative Indexes to all magazines, it can be readily seen what a vast storehouse of useful literature is here placed at the disposal of searchers for information not usually found in books.

It might be explained, in passing, that the Cumulative Index is published monthly and Poole's Index annually. They are complete indexes of all important articles in the leading magazines.

GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP.

No extraordinary effort has been made to increase the membership. The library offers so much for so small a fee (\$1 a year) that no special pleading in its behalf is required. Those who have subscribed have doubtless done so because they believed that an investment of two cents a week in good literature would yield satisfactory results. On the 1st of October, 1902, the number of subscribers was 271. Increase month by month was as follows, viz.: October, 1902, 134; November, 1902, 153; December, 1902, 157; January, 1903, 163; February, 1903, 167; March, 1903, 171; April, 1903, 175; May, 1903, 179; June, 1903, 183; July, 1903, 187; August, 1903, 191; September, 1903, 195. Total September 30, 1903, 689. This increase has been healthy, and, on the whole, satisfactory, because indicating a steady growth in the popularity of the library among the people who use books. Slowly but surely Mr. Jarvis's splendid gift is making for itself the place it deserves in the esteem of the people in this community. Yet there is room for much larger increase, and it is confidently hoped that another year will bring the membership quite up to 1,000. Will every reader of this who is not a subscriber ask himself these questions: "Are the benefits offered by the library for one cent a week worth that sum to me?" or, "If I do not care to read library books, have I not a dollar's worth of loyalty to Bloomfield, or pride in one of its most useful institutions, that I should neglect to give it a helping hand?"

It is a pleasant thing to note that out of the 689 subscribers to the library, 106 are residents of Glen Ridge, and our neighbors on the hill support their own library besides.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS.

The total number of books taken out of the library to October 1, 1903, was 30,069. The highest number in one day was 135; the lowest 16 (New Year's day). Average daily circulation, 95. In the juvenile department the total circulation was 4,501. Circulation of adult fiction, 67 per cent.; juvenile fiction, 72 per cent.

These figures do not include the use of books in the reference and reading rooms. These rooms have been well patronized, and it is a common thing to see all the chairs occupied in the afternoon by students, school children and other readers. The monthly and weekly periodicals are in constant demand. Here is a list of those that are kept on non-subscribers:

American Kitchen Magazine, American Macmillan, Bible, Birds and Nature, Bookman, Century, Cosmopolitan, Counsellor, Life in America, Critic, Dial, Electrical World, Engineering Magazine, Forest and Stream, Forum, Frank Leslie's

Monthly, Harper's Bazar, Harper's Magazine, Harper's Weekly, Illustrated London News, Ladies' Home Journal, Lamp, Scientific American, Scribner's Magazine, Studio, Library Journal, Life, Little's Living Age, Little Folks, McClure's Magazine, Masters in Art, Missionary Review, Munsey's Magazine, Nation, North American Review, Outlook, Outlook, Photo-American, Popular Science Monthly, Public Librarian, Puck, Review of Reviews, Rudder, St. Nicholas, Saturday Evening Post, Week's Progress, World's Work, Youth's Companion.

This report would not be complete without some recognition of the thorough and masterly manner in which the task of organizing and conducting the library has been accomplished by Miss Imhoff, the librarian. Her inexhaustible fund of information about books, and the never-failing courtesy and cheerfulness shown by herself and her assistant in serving patrons, have done much toward making the library popular.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Condensed.)

Receipts, Mary Jarvis Memorial Fund.	\$2,607.14
Disbursements.	2,154.80
Balance on hand.	452.34
Expense Account.	
Receipts from Subscribers.	812.02
Donated by J. N. Jarvis.	500.00
Disbursements.	1,312.80
Light, heat, janitor, etc., etc.	1,305.09
Balance on hand.	7.11
Special Gift Account.	
Received from donor.	1,000.00
Expended for books.	943.77
Balance on hand.	56.23
Total cash on hand.	505.88

INTERESTING LETTERS.

Continued from page 1.

town. Under these circumstances your suggestion that the committee is irresponsible and that the Water Company can see no reason why they should further consider this matter in connection with the Committee of Fifteen, seems to me to be merely evasive, for I think you can have no doubt that any agreement reached by the Orange Water Company with this committee will receive the approval of the citizens of Bloomfield, and will be confirmed by the official action of its authorities.

We spoke again this morning of arbitration as a means of fixing the true value of this plant. I think this method could safely and satisfactorily be resorted to, and that if it shall be adopted, a final agreement, fair and satisfactory to all parties, will result; but I think that we ought to be able to reach an agreement without arbitration. I believe that if the Orange Water Company will furnish true and corrected figures of the actual cost of this plant, and will indicate its willingness to make a reasonable and fair deduction from such cost by reason of depreciation, just such a deduction for depreciation as you yourself would make if you were about to buy the plant from some other independent owner—I believe if this shall be done, we could agree on a price without arbitration.

As I told you this morning, if the question of buying the Bloomfield plant for \$150,000 is submitted to the voters at an election, as is proposed, on Nov. 10th, the entire influence of the citizen members of the Committee of Fifteen will be used to show the voters and taxpayers of Bloomfield how much such price is in excess of the value of the plant, and to persuade them not to vote to consummate such a purchase, and I think it is altogether probable that some members of the Town Council agree with them in this conclusion, and will exert their influence in the same direction; and my belief is that the result of such an election will be overwhelmingly against any authorization to the Town Council to make such a purchase. I believe also that our courts, at the instance of a taxpayer, would grant an injunction to restrain the town authorities from making a contract to purchase so manifestly against the interest of the community.

I regret more than I can express the action of the Orange Water Company in terminating negotiations with the Committee of Fifteen, and I regret to an equal degree, the haste with which the Town Council voted to call a special election on Nov. 10th, without consultation with the Committee of Fifteen. It will be unfortunate if the action of the Water Company shall seem to array the citizen members of the committee against the official members of the committee, but I think that the members of the Council, and I know this is true of some of them, upon further reflection, will concur in my judgment that the town ought not to be asked to pay any such sum for the plant. The citizens of Bloomfield feel very much aggrieved at the manner in which they and their committee have been treated by the Water Company in the last few weeks, and I violate no confidence when I tell you that there is a strong disposition to advise the Council to construct a duplicate plant in Bloomfield without further negotiations with the Water Company; and if this conclusion shall be reached, the action of the Water Company in refusing to negotiate further with the Committee of Fifteen will have caused the result. I am glad that you came to see me this morning, for it gives me the opportunity to lay these facts before you for your consideration.

Yours respectfully,

HALEY M. BARRETT,

Counsel for the Citizens' Committee of Fifteen.

MR. SHEPARD TO MR. BARRETT.

Oct. 20, 1903.

Dear Mr. Barrett: Your favor 16th came duly to hand. After carefully reading it, I do not see any reason for changing my views concerning the value of the plant.

I do observe an undertone of a feeling of retaliation in case the Water Company does not unreservedly do whatever is demanded, and this I think an injustice.

For 20 years the Water Company has supplied Bloomfield with good water, at a cost for public and private use as low as the lowest cost to any town or city around it; they have faithfully complied with all the conditions of their contract, and at this time, when there is no contract, they are spending \$500 or more to restore the pipe in James street, which was broken by the flood, the total hydrant and water rates in that section making no adequate return. With this record on our part, we ask, what evil have we done that would justify the town to destroy the value of our property?

Yours truly,

F. M. SHEPARD.

Stores at

MONTCLAIR,
EAST ORANGE,
SOUTH ORANGE,
ORANGE.

Chas. M. Becker & Bros.

EUROPEAN VEGETABLES.

WE have just received our importation of Foreign Vegetables, which this season are of very excellent quality, and are moderately priced. We are first hands in these goods and dealers as well as consumers can make their purchases here to advantage. We offer Bon Choix Champignons (first choice Mushrooms) at \$2.75 per dozen cans; per can 25c. Petit Pois Sur Extra Fins, the very finest French Peas at \$2.75 per dozen cans; per can 25c. Petit Pois Sur Fins, a small and very fine French Pea, we sell at \$2.25 a dozen cans or 20c per can. We also sell the Belgium Pea, the Sur Extra Fine Fleur Petit Pois, very smallest and finest, \$2.25 per dozen cans; 20c a can. Fine Belgium Peas (Petit Pois Fine) \$1.75 per dozen cans; per can 16c. Your attention is called to our line of French Vegetables in glass—30c, 35c and 37c a jar.

NEW GOODS.

THIS week we are able to offer a number of new lines—seasonable goods—consisting partly of the following: The Celebrated Deerfoot Farm Sausage, fresh every day, in one pound packages, 24c. Finest Comb Honey, per comb, 22c; Grape Fruit, each 10c; New Malaga Grapes, 20c lb.; Cranberries, per quart, 12c; Hickory Nuts, per quart, 15c; New Figs, etc. Those Tomatoes in cans—the full size—3 lbs., red ripe, solid pack goods, at \$1.10 per dozen cans or 10c per can, are worth having. Prices promise higher—better order now.

FREE DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

BLOOMFIELD Savings Institution,

Office: 7 Broad Street,

Bloomfield, N. J.

SURPLUS, - - \$67,477.18

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.